

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operating a nickel-metal hydride battery during cold start weather conditions, comprising:

providing ~~at~~ the nickel-metal hydride battery having a first state of charge level;

determining the ambient temperature ~~of said battery~~; and

resetting the state of charge level of said battery to a second level when said ambient temperature falls below a first temperature ~~said state of charge at least partially dependent upon said ambient temperature~~.
2. (CANCELLED)
3. (CANCELLED)
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the second level ~~first value~~ of said state of charge is greater than 70%.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein the second level ~~first value~~ of said state of charge is between 70% and 90%.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4, wherein the first level ~~second value~~

of said state of charge is less than 60%.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 5, wherein the first level second value of said state of charge is between 40% and 60%.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operating a nickel-metal hydride battery, comprising: providing said nickel-metal hydride battery, said battery being at an ambient temperature of -20 degrees C or less; converting a portion of the chemical energy of said battery to thermal energy; and electrically coupling said battery to a load after converting a portion of chemical energy to thermal energy.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, wherein said converting step decreases the charge transfer resistance of said battery.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9, wherein said converting step comprises the step of discharging said battery.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 10, wherein said discharging step comprises the step of applying a short circuit across said battery for a finite period of time.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, wherein said battery is provided having a temperature of -25 degrees C or less.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, wherein said battery is provided having a temperature of -30 degrees C or less.
14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11, wherein said short circuit is applied for 10 seconds or less.
15. (CANCELLED)
16. (CANCELLED)
17. (CANCELLED)
18. (CANCELLED)
19. (CANCELLED)
20. (NEW) The method of claim 1, further comprising recharging the nickel-metal hydride battery by regenerative braking.
21. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the first temperature is less than or equal to - 10 degrees Celsius.

22. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the first temperature is less than or equal to - 20 degrees Celsius.

23. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the first temperature is less than or equal to -30 degrees Celsius.

24. (NEW) The method of claim 1, further comprising resetting the state of charge level of said battery the first level when said ambient temperature rises above a second temperature.

25. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the first temperature is equal to the second temperature.